

**Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta**

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an
Oirdheiscirt | Leacain |
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |
R95 NV08

Head of Service Older Persons Tel: 056 7784319

South East Community Healthcare
Area | Lacken |
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |
R95 NV08

19th July 2022

Mr. Michael Lowry, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 36500/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1384 of 14 June 2022, if the full analysis of service demand need for level 2 palliative care beds (details supplied - previous reply to PQ 2723/22) has been completed; if so, if it will be published and made available to review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 36501/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 1384, 1385, 1386 and 1387 of 14 June 2022, if level 2 bed provision within community hospitals and services for older people is not only to support homecare teams and would also be required to support the regional acute level 3 palliative care unit that is, in the case of St Anthony's in Clonmel palliative care beds would support the level 3 south east palliative care centre recently opened in Waterford (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 36502/22

If the L2 Beds numbers sufficient given the upsurge in cancer disease in aging population. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1384 of 14 June 2022, if the current level 2 palliative care bed provision (details supplied listed as 6 in recent PQ) and therefore less than the number prior to the closure of St. Brigid's Community Hospital, Carrick on Suir is deemed as sufficient currently and for the future requirements given the upsurge of cancer disease following the pandemic as well as the ageing population.

Dear Deputy Lowry,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following composite response is the current position.

I can confirm that the analysis of "service demand need" has commenced and when complete this should assist in identifying palliative care needs going forward. The initial phase will comprise a desktop assessment being completed by Older Persons which will include an analysis of information including (but not limited to) KPI metrics collated from the Home Care Team, bed allocation and bed usage to designated palliative care beds across SECH and more specifically South Tipperary, population and other data.



The Level 2 beds within South Tipperary and managed by Older Persons Services are allocated to meet the residential requirements of individuals who have a palliative diagnosis and who reside within the South Tipperary catchment area. The palliative care team have an excellent working relationship with all staff within the Residential Units and they visit and support the patient during their inpatient stay providing vital advice, support and education to the staff of these facilities as required.

The South East Palliative Care Centre (SEPCC) Level 3 specialist unit was constructed as part of the overall five storey “Dunmore Wing” integrated project on the grounds of University Hospital Waterford. The SEPCC is the first in-patient and day service multi-disciplinary specialist palliative care unit for the South East region serving the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. The upper ground floor of the building features a centre for day services in palliative medicine. The 20 bed inpatient unit (lower ground floor) is currently operating with 16 beds, it is planned that the remaining beds will open on a phased basis.

The Centre is the hub for palliative care in the South East and is building on the existing Consultant led integrated model of care in place across acute hospitals and community healthcare. Staff based at the Centre are supporting the Community Specialist Palliative Care (CSPC) Teams and Primary Care Teams across counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford in providing appropriate care pathways for palliative clients in their own home or in nursing homes or community nursing units.

For the past 30 years Community Specialist Palliative Care (CSPC) in SECH has been provided in partnership with the HSE by four Section 39 Organisations as follows:

- Waterford Hospice Movement based on the grounds of University Hospital Waterford
- South Tipperary Hospice Movement based in offices in Clonmel town.
- Carlow/Kilkenny Home Care Team based on the grounds of St. Luke’s Hospital, Kilkenny
- Wexford Hospice Homecare Ltd, based in Ely Hospital, Wexford

The process of the transfer of governance from the various respective Home Care Teams to the HSE is currently in progress for Wexford, Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary. Waterford CSPC completed the transfer on 31/05/2021.

There is an important distinction between Level 2 and Level 3 Palliative care services whereby professional knowledge and expertise delivered by clinical staff in level 2 is not on a full time basis and Level 3 Specialist Palliative Care Services are delivered where the core activity is limited to the provision of palliative care¹.

The current number of Palliative Care beds level 2 allocation in South Tipperary is as follows:

- Cluain Arann Unit: 2
- St. Theresa’s Clogheen: 2

¹ <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/palliative-care/moc/ncp-palliative-care-model-of-care-24-04-0219.pdf>



- St. Anthony's Clonmel: 2

In January 2020 the number of level 2 beds in South Tipperary was as follows:

- Cluain Arann Unit: 2
- St. Theresa's Clogheen: 1
- St. Brigid's Carrick on Suir: 3

The configuration and access to palliative care beds continues to be 6 beds (Level 2). Currently the demand for palliative care beds is less than pre-pandemic levels. However demand for service continues to be monitored and service need will inform service delivery requirements and developments moving forward.

I trust that this is of assistance. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen McDaid', written over a light grey grid background.

Helen McDaid
Head of Service
South East Community Healthcare